

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00549 231509Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SP-02

INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 /045 W

-----108244 231534Z /50S

O R 231455Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 836

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T JIDDA 0549

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SA, SO, ET

SUBJECT: BARRE TO CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND A PLEBISCITE

1. PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE OF SOMALIA WAS IN THE KINGDOM JAN. 22 AND 23 FOR CONFERENCES WITH SAG OFFICIALS. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD TOLD ME ON JAN. 23 THAT AS A RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, CROWN PRINCE FAHD WANTED ME TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. CROWN PRINCE'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT PARRA WAS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO RIAYDH ON SOMALIA'S FUTURE MOVES. PRESIDENT BARRE IS CALLING A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY OR TOMORROW TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE WOULD WELCOME PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE ALL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. BARRE WILL SAY THAT THE OGADEN QUESTION SHOULD BE SETTLED BY A PLEBISCITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. FAHD EMPHASIZED THAT BARRE'S ACTION WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COURSE AGREED UPON DURING THE PRESIDENT'S JANUARY 3 MEETING WITH FAHD.

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3. BARRE ALSO SAID HE WAS WILLING TO GIVE KENYA ANY ASSURANCES IT DESIRES WITH RESPECT TO ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY SOMALI AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS ON THAT COUNTRY. BARRE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD SENT HIS VICE PRESIDENT TO KENYA TO REASSURE THE KENYANS CONCERNING THE FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SIGN A NON-AGGRESSION

PACT WITH KENYA IF THAT WERE APPROPRIATE OR DESIRED.

4. FAHD ALSO INDICATED TO SAUD THAT SINCE BARRE WAS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SOME PUBLIC SUPPORT COULD BE GIVEN TO BARRE'S ANNOUNCEMENT. NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTION WAS MADE AS TO THE FORM OF SUCH SUPPORT, BUT SAUD MENTIONED TO ME THE MEETING PRESENTLY GOING ON IN WASHINGTON WITH KEY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS A POSSIBLE FORUM OR VEHICLE FOR SOME INDICATION OF PUBLIC APPROVAL OF BARRE'S ACTIONS.

WEST

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MS. ROBINSON, S/S-O.

SECRET

NNN

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